THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • WEDNESDAY • FEBRUARY 17, 2021 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 22 • LATE CITY EDITION

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Team India celebrate after winning the second Test in Chennai on Tuesday. The four-Test series is 1-1 level | BCCI | PTI

FORMALITY COMPLETE
Needing seven wickets to win, India posted a massive 317-run win against England in the second Test on Day Four

HOME TRUTH
Virat Kohli is already India's most successful Test captain ever and the win in Chennai was his 21st at home. As of now, this is a joint-home record with former skipper MS Dhoni

PATEL RAP
Left-arm spinner Axar Patel had a memorable debut. He picked up five wickets, including that of Joe Root, in the second innings. He is the ninth Indian to take five wickets on debut

LOCAL TOUCH
R Ashwin, who was declared the Man of the Match, dedicated the victory to his home crowd (Chennai). "I'm speechless. I've played four Tests here and this is the most special," he said

OVER TO MOTERA
Both the teams will be travelling to Ahmedabad next for the third day and night Test. After levelling the series, India would be looking to consolidate the lead in the pink ball match

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RUNS SCORED BY ENGLAND'S LAST PAIR, THE HIGHEST IN A MATCH FOR VISITORS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TRICHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

DISHA CREATED WHATSAPP GROUP; PRO-KHALISTANI PJF JOINED LATER

Climate activist deleted the group after cases filed against many in toolkit row

BALA CHAUHAN @ Bengaluru

THREE days after Disha Ravi was arrested under charges of sedition, criminal conspiracy and for creating disharmony among groups, highly-placed sources claimed that she had created a "closed" WhatsApp group on December 6, 2020.

"Nikita Jacob joined the WhatsApp group on December 11. The next day, the Poetic Justice Foundation (PJF), which is a pro-Khalistani outfit founded by Mo Dhaliwal, joined the same group," they stated.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

"It is being investigated as to who included PJF in the WhatsApp group. The Delhi police wanted to question Nikita on the matter on February 12, a day after they had searched her house in the presence of her parents. The police had also made her sign a bound-down notice that the investigating officer would come back the next day to question her. But when the team went to her house, Nikita was not there," said the source. On February 13, a team of Delhi special police took the help of Bengaluru police and arrested Disha from her house in the presence of her mother.

After the arrest, the Delhi police had said, "Disha deleted the WhatsApp group after we registered a case against the 'creators' of the controversial toolkit."

The toolkit was posted by climate activist Greta Thunberg, but she had later deleted it. The authorities claimed that Greta did so on the request of Disha, who sent a message through a WhatsApp chat fearing legal action including being booked under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

"The police have forensically retrieved the digital evidence from Disha's phone, which includes her message to Greta asking her to delete the toolkit, which had her name along with Nikita and Shantanu and the WhatsApp group in which Dhaliwal was added," the source said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

FARMERS' PROTEST TOMORROW
Calling Disha Ravi's arrest illegal and undemocratic, farmers' unions in the state have come out in support of the young activist. Unions in Karnataka are preparing to agitate against her arrest on February 18 when they participate in the nationwide rail roko call given by Samyukt Kisan Morcha. P4

ATTEMPT TO MUZZLE YOUTH, SAYS FFF
The Fridays For Future (FFF) India has condemned the arrest of Disha Ravi, who is a colleague and one of its co-founders. In an interview with TNIE, team FFF, India stated that Disha's arrest is an "attempt to intimidate the young climate activists of the country". "The govt should instead be proud of the youth..," it said. P4

NSUI members and students display placards during a protest to condemn the arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi in Bengaluru on Tuesday | SANDEEP DH

Advance bail to 2 climate activists as police Zoom in

GAYATHRI MANI & SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ New Delhi/Mumbai

TWO of the three activists named in the farmer protest toolkit FIR got relief from courts even as the Delhi Police ramped up efforts to build its case against them.

Environment activist Shantanu Muluk was granted anticipatory transit bail by Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court on Tuesday for 10 days while the main bench of the HC reserved its order on a similar bail plea by lawyer-activist Nitika Jacob for Wednesday. Meanwhile, a Delhi court allowed Bengaluru's student-activist Disha Ravi to speak with family over phone for 15 minutes and meet with her lawyer for 30 minutes every day while in police custody.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate also allowed her to get warm clothes, masks and books and ordered the Delhi Police to provide a copy of the FIR and remand documents to Disha.

Delhi Police have, meanwhile, written to Zoom app to provide details of the contents, locations and the people who attended the January 11 virtual meeting organised by Pro-Khalistani group Poetic Justice Foundation.

According to Joint Commissioner of Police (Cyber Cell) Prem Nath, about 60-70 people, including Disha, Jacob and Muluk — whom he identified as creators and editors of the toolkit — attended the meeting. Canada-based Khalistan supporter MO Dhaliwal and Anita Lal, co-founders of PJF, also attended the meeting to chalk out the modalities of creating the toolkit. Dismissing criticism over arrest of the 21-year-old activist, the police denied any lapse. "Disha's arrest has been made in accordance with the law, which doesn't differentiate between a 22-year-old or a 50-year-old," said Delhi Police Commissioner.

Koo targets 100 mn users by year-end

VCs keenly watching Koo
Koo plans to use $4 million funding that it received recently to develop the product. It has also received a lot of interest from venture capitalists who are keen to invest in Koo

RAMU PATIL @ Bengaluru

BY the end of 2021, over 100 million social media users in the country will be 'koo'ing in a number of Indian languages. India's own micro-blogging platform Koo, which came into prominence earlier this month after a number of Union ministers and departments joined the platform, is growing at a phenomenal pace.

Its Bengaluru-based founders are confident that the platform's user base will go up by over 25 times within a year.

"We have crossed 4.2 million users on apps and our web traffic has grown by almost 70x and continues to grow. Our aim is to get 100 million users by this year-end. I will not be surprised if we reach that target much faster," Koo co-founder Mayank Bidawatka told *The New Indian Express* on Tuesday.

In fact, founders of the platform too had not expected such a sudden surge in demand. "We had not expected such kind of love, but it all happened. I think it is all latent demand that is coming to fore," said Mayank, a serial entrepreneur.

Aprameya Radhakrishna and Mayank Bidawatka are other founders of Koo, which is seen as an Indian alternative to Twitter, especially to connect people who speak Indian languages.

Mayank was categorical that Koo was not created to compete with Twitter, but to provide a platform to a large number of Indians, who do not speak English or prefer it as a primary language. "A lot of developments in recent times make it seem like we are here to compete with Twitter, but that was never our plan," he said. P7

> Koo is an answer to meaningfully connect those people who speak the same native language... We just happen to be at the right place at the right time
> Mayank Bidawatka

As Covid cases rise, containment zones make a comeback in K'taka

Is India facing a resurgence?
It may be too early to say if India is heading towards a fresh wave of Covid-19, but some states like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Haryana are perhaps showing early signs of a resurgence

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

AS Covid-19 cases in the state are increasing, the government has brought back containment zones to tackle the epidemic effectively. The Technical Advisory Committee on Tuesday suggested to the government that such zones are needed again as a threat of another Covid wave is looming. The State Government had introduced containment zones last year at the peak of the pandemic.

If five are more cases are detected in a hostel, residential complex or educational institution, then they will be declared containment zones by local health officials, who will initiate special surveillance measures.

After seven days of declaring a containment zone, the inmates will be subjected to RTPCR tests. Strict enforcement of Covid precautions, like wearing of face masks, physical distancing, use of hand sanitisers and monitoring of symptomatic patients, will be strictly followed and heads of these units will be held responsible if there are any violations, the government order states.

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Our daughter is innocent, we're a humble family: Mom

> *I just want my daughter to return home safe, and don't want to say anything that might go against her*
> — Manjula, Disha's mother

CHETANA BELAGERE @ Bengaluru

"MY daughter is innocent. She has not done any wrong," says Disha Ravi's mother Manjula, trying to stay strong amid the chaos surrounding her daughter.

Refusing to divulge more details about the case or her daughter, Manjula said her family comes from a very humble farming background, and Disha has seen the ups and downs of agriculture. Hence, she has always been interested in climate and nature-related issues, she said. The family from Old Mysuru has been living in Bengaluru's Abbigere, near Chikkabanavara, for the past 13 years.

Refuting theories of being a single mother and sole breadwinner of the family, Manjula said, "How does it matter? She has everyone with her. Disha's grandparents (my parents) are farmers and she comes from a very humble background. She can never even think of harming the peace of the country," Manjula said.

Worried sick about her daughter, Manjula told *TNIE* that her lawyer had given strict instructions not to talk about the case to the media. "I just want my daughter to return home safe, and don't want to say anything that might go against her," she said tearfully.

Disha, a BBA graduate from Mount Carmel College, was interested in pursuing a career in ecological conservation and restoration. P6

GRADES 6-8 TO BEGIN FROM FEB 22

- Regular, offline classes for Grades 6 to 8 to start from February 22
- The rule is not applicable to regions along Karnataka-Kerala border and in Bengaluru city
- Teachers and students from Kerala have to test for Covid and can attend offline classes after producing a negative report
- Minister S Suresh Kumar to hold meeting with all district administrators to discuss measures to be taken for reopening of schools

The academic year for 2021-22 to begin on July 15, the minister said P2

B R Shetty's plea: HC asks RBI to revisit lending norms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IT is time the lawmakers and the Reserve Bank of India revisited the lending guidelines and procedures and took necessary remedial measures to ensure that public money was well secured before disbursement, the Karnataka High Court has said.

Justice P S Dinesh Kumar made this observation while dismissing two petitions filed by **Dr Bavaguthu Raghuram Shetty**, an NRI businessman, residing in Kadri in Mangaluru. Shetty had questioned the endorsement issued by the Bureau of Immigration not permitting him to travel to Abu Dhabi, UAE, and the Lookout Circulars (LOCs) issued by the Bank of Baroda (BOB) and Punjab National Bank (PNB). He is liable for repayment of about ₹2,800 crore to banks.

When the court called upon the advocates of the banks to explain on what security the banks permitted such large exposure, they said the companies to which loans were advanced were 'listed companies' in London Stock Exchange and the share value had shown that these firms had high net worth.

The court then noted, "Tangible assets, if any, mortgaged in favour of banks and their valuation is not forthcoming."

It observed that the loan amount was more than one-third of the annual budget of a State like Sikkim. If public sector banks are permitting such large exposure without adequate securities, it is a matter of great concern and it will have a serious adverse impact on the economy of this country. Hence, the petitioner is not entitled for relief, the court said, while reserving liberty available to him to approach bank authorities and explain that LOCs have been wrongly issued. P7

JUSTICE RAMA JOIS PASSES AWAY AT 89

Well-known jurist and former governor, Justice M Rama Jois (89) passed away in Bengaluru on Tuesday morning after a heart attack. He is survived by his wife Vimala, son Shailendra and daughter Tara | P6

EXPRESS READ

Bedi removed as Puducherry L-G

NEW DELHI: Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi was removed from her post on Tuesday night at a time when the Union Territory is witnessing a political crisis following the resignation of Congress MLAs from the V Narayanasamy government. President Ram Nath Kovind gave the additional charge of the Union Territory to Telengana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan. P7